

NEW RECORD SET IN XMAS BUYING

Gift Purchasers Reach High Mark in Volume and Amount Expended

CROWDS CHOKE STREETS

Christmas Sales Far Exceed Previous Figures, Says Ellis A. Gimbel

The present Christmas season has been the greatest in the business history of the city, merchants said this afternoon.

The expenditures by shoppers in Philadelphia have mounted high into the millions. The business of all stores, large and small, in all parts of the city has been tremendous.

Never have the people paid out such a huge sum for Christmas presents. All records have been broken.

And this afternoon, with Christmas only two days off, the rush for gifts continues unabated. The streets in the center of the city were bright with color and filled with moving thousands. The stores were packed to the doors.

"Smashed All Records"

"In volume and value," said Ellis Gimbel this afternoon, "the holiday business this year has smashed all records. It is safe to say that the department store alone have sold more than \$20,000,000 worth of merchandise during December. Virtually all of this huge pile of merchandise represents Christmas gifts."

Mr. Gimbel, voicing the sentiments of other merchants, asserted that the stores have never handled such huge crowds of Christmas shoppers and explaining the bumper business said it was due to a combination of unique circumstances. "The war is over," said Mr. Gimbel, "and the people are nappy. They are expressing their happiness by buying gifts and it is apparent that every man, woman and child in the city is going the limit."

Wide Range in Gifts

"In the old days the bulk of the Christmas business was confined to jewelry and novelties, but this year everything is being sold from talking machines to blankets. The people have evidently drawn a lesson from the war, for they are putting their money to good uses."

In the department stores every department is doing a wonderful business. The business began early in the month and increased in volume until Saturday it was virtually impossible to serve the ever-increasing number of buyers. Today and tomorrow will continue to smash all records in the commercial history of Philadelphia.

Herbert J. Tilly, general manager of the Strawbridge & Clothier store, today said the Christmas business of his store was "the greatest in our history."

"This year," added Mr. Tilly, "the people have a real Christmas spirit. After nearly five years of war there is a great reaction and the people are once more happy and giving expression to their feelings. Never in its history of fifty years has the Strawbridge & Clothier store done such an enormous holiday business."

Everybody Prosperous

"Everybody is prosperous and everybody is spending money. This year's holiday business speaks volumes for the prosperity of our city."

"The war has developed a fondness for music," said Walter Eckhardt, an official of the Chamber of Commerce, and a Chestnut street business man, "and this is made plain in the unprecedented demand for musical instruments. Our business this season is the greatest in our history. That is due to the fact that the people are supplied with money and to the fact that the Liberty Sings and patriotic meetings have developed a taste for music."

The "shop early" campaign bore fruit this year, according to Charles C. Wriggins of the B. F. Dewees store. "Instead of waiting until the last few days before the holiday to do their buying," said Mr. Wriggins, "the people began to do their shopping early. This has aided the stores to handle the great business and serve the Christmas shoppers much better than under the old-time system. This year's business exceeds everything in the history of Philadelphia stores. And best of all the

people have spent their money on practical things."

Parcel Post Overloaded

The volume of the Christmas business is reflected in reports of the parcel post service made today by Postmaster Thornton. He said that additional clerks were aiding in the work of handling the avalanche of packages and that a fleet of 250 motortrucks is being used to keep the parcel post depots clear of packages.

Today's throngs gave Chestnut, Market, Walnut streets and other shopping streets a wonderful color, for the weather man, by serving warm temperature and a glorious sun, gave the fair sex opportunity to wear their most colorful rainment.

ALLEGED BANK FRAUD PROVES DEEP PUZZLE

Problem Too Profound for Magistrate and Accused Rebel in \$5000 Bail

Who got the money?

That is the question Magistrate Harris and officials of the Excelsior Savings and Trust Company wanted answered today at the further hearing of George W. Fry, 514 Keystone street, former paying teller of the bank, and William C. Snyder, of Lehigh avenue near Broad street, who are charged by the bank officials with conspiracy to defraud the bank.

Fry and Snyder were held under \$5000 bail at a preliminary hearing two weeks ago.

Officials of the bank testified that Snyder's account, through the alleged connivance of Fry, had been overdrawn to the extent of \$40,000.

At the further hearing today James W. McBirney, a banking commissioner, testified that the bank was about \$40,000 short, covered by securities.

Both Fry and Snyder denied that they got the money. Fry placed the blame on Snyder and Snyder declared the bank really owed him money.

Fry testified he had never profited once, but did testify that Snyder had made him small presents from time to time, amounting in all to \$500.

Congressman John R. Scott, representing Snyder, and Owen J. Roberts, representing Fry, asked each other repeatedly where the money went. Magistrate Harris was unable to unravel the tangled web of both defendants in \$5000 bail for court.

Snyder is the head of the North Philadelphia Bazaar.

WOULD ELIMINATE BISHOPS

Episcopal Clergyman Says It Would Help Church Union

Elimination of bishops of the Episcopal Church as a method toward the unification of Christian churches was suggested yesterday by the Rev. H. S. Vincent, rector of the House of Prayer, Branchtown, an Episcopal institution.

Mr. Vincent is a prominent member of the Episcopal Church, and his suggestion was a great surprise to other clergymen of the same faith.

In urging church union, he said, the various Allied nations had appointed Marshall Foch as head of their combined armies and had fought under him without losing their individual nationalities.

He argued that churches could unite in somewhat the same manner with the danger of losing all of their most cherished beliefs and traditions.

DRY FEDERATION TO MEET

Convention at Harrisburg to Follow Inauguration

The Dry Federation of Pennsylvania has arranged to hold a ratification convention in the Chestnut street auditorium, Harrisburg, Wednesday, January 22, the day following the inauguration of Senator Sprull as Governor.

Invitations have been extended to all the organizations in the State which have been working for the passage of a Chestnut street business man, and this is made plain in the unprecedented demand for musical instruments. Our business this season is the greatest in our history. That is due to the fact that the people are supplied with money and to the fact that the Liberty Sings and patriotic meetings have developed a taste for music.

The Revs. J. W. Graves and W. Scott Nevin, of this city, are members of the committee arranging for the convention.

City Appointments Announced

City appointments announced today were: Charles C. Wriggins, 1940 South 17th street, dietitian, Bureau of Charities, \$1200 a year; George Heidemann, 2925 Elm street, climber, Electrical Bureau, \$4 a day; William Brady, 3400 Torresdale avenue, crane operator, Bureau of Water, \$4 a day; James W. Anderson, 2017 East Cambria, class leader, Board of Recreation, \$3 a day.

BUTCHER IS SLAIN BY NEGRO BANDITS

Downtown Storekeeper Murdered When He Fights Hold-Up Men

ASSAILANTS ESCAPE

Family Asleep Upstairs—One Son in France—Neighbors Search for Fugitives

John Martin, fifty-five years old, a well-known downtown storekeeper, was shot and killed by two negro hold-up men in his store at 1427 South Twenty-second street early this morning.

The assailants escaped in the fog without obtaining money or anything of value from the store.

The shooting took place shortly after Martin opened the store and about ten minutes after he had remarked to his first customer that it was a "fine day for a hold-up and murder."

As this customer was leaving the store he saw two young negro men walking toward it. A short time later shots were heard, and when neighbors hurried in Martin lay dying on the floor.

Conditions in the shop showed the slain storekeeper had put up a determined fight. One counter was upset and groceries were scattered over the store.

The police believe the two men had ordered some meat, which would have necessitated Martin's going into the back of the store and then were discovered trying to load the cash register in the front.

Martin had been in business at the Twenty-second street address for almost twenty years.

Martin's wife and four of his sons were sleeping above the store and were among the first to arrive on the scene of the crime. Mrs. Martin accompanied the body to St. Agnes Hospital, and when told her husband was dead, collapsed.

Joseph, the first son on the scene, also working on the pursuit. Another son, John, is in France serving with Base Hospital No. 5. Samuel, one of the sons at home, has just returned from the camp in which he was training. The police have a good description of the hold-up men. The popularity of the man who was slain was so great that scores of citizens volunteered to help in the chase and Detectives Stinger, Keenan and Reinhold, of the Twentieth and Federal streets station, in charge of the pursuit, are confident of the capture of the murderers. City Hall detectives are also working on the case.

The police say the two negroes evidently were familiar with the operations of Martin's store and selected a time when it was almost sure to be empty of customers.

WOMAN BEATEN BY BURGLAR

Intruder, Surprised in Gloucester Home, Throws Her Down Cellar

Beaten and thrown into the cellar by burglars who surprised her in her Gloucester home, Mrs. John Dicking, 328 Somerset street, Gloucester, is suffering from shock.

Mrs. Dicking was attacked as she entered the dining room last night. One man placed his hand over her mouth and the other seized her roughly by the back of the neck. Then when she tried to scream, they struck her and threw her in the cellar with the command to keep silent.

Mrs. Dicking's son-in-law, Reuben Winters, who was asleep upstairs, was aroused by the commotion, but as he ran downstairs, the burglars fled from the front door. Mrs. Dicking had returned home before the burglars were able to collect any loot.

KILLED BY ELECTRIC TRAIN

Philadelphian Meets Death in Fog in Gloucester, N. J.

Frank Santo, of Philadelphia, was killed today when he walked in front of an electric train near Timber Bridge, Gloucester city. It is believed he did not see the cars in the thick fog. The body is being held at the morgue in Gloucester until his relatives here can be found.

FOOT AND LIMB TROUBLES

Instantly relieved by our special arch supports, fitted and adjusted by experts. Our \$ 2.50 in less than 10 minutes relieves the most comfortable support for various kinds of foot and limb troubles, swollen limbs, weak knees, sprains, rheumatism, sciatic neuralgia, etc. Largest store of dramatic appliances in the world. Philadelphia Orthopedic Co., 40 N. 13th St. Cut out and keep for reference—J. L.



IT'S NOW MAJOR BIDDLE! Philadelphia's own "Tony" Biddle. A. J. Drexel Biddle—has been made a major in the marine corps. He is stationed at Quantico, Va.

PLAN COMMUNITY TRUST

Financial Concern to Establish the "Philadelphia Foundation"

The Fidelity Trust Company announces that its board of directors intend to establish a community trust for the city and State of Pennsylvania under the title of the "Philadelphia Foundation." This is a new idea in Philadelphia, but it has been adopted in various other cities.

The plan provides for a trustee to hold and administer funds for charitable, philanthropic and civic purposes, the income to be distributed under the direction of a general committee to be appointed by various persons.

Under the plan adopted by the Fidelity Trust Company this committee will consist of five persons, one to be appointed by the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, one by the senior judge of the United States District Court, one by the presiding judge of the Federal Court and two by the board of directors of the Fidelity Trust Company. Appointments will run for five years.

The Fidelity Trust Company is to receive and administer as trustee all funds.

PENNSY AGENT RETIRES

W. G. Smick on Pension List After Fifty Years' Service

W. G. Smick, passenger agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad at North Philadelphia station, has just been retired from active duty through the operation of the railroad's pension regulations, after having served the railroad more than fifty years. He was born in Philadelphia on November 29, 1848, and has lived here all of his life.

Mr. Smick entered on his railroad career as a clerk in the old freight station at Fifteenth and Market streets, on the site of Broad Street Station, on October 12, 1868. Here he worked for ten years when he was advanced to chief clerk of the West Philadelphia freight station at Thirtieth and Market streets. In 1879 Mr. Smick was transferred to the position of freight agent at Mantua freight station and on September 18, 1883, he was appointed freight and passenger agent at North Philadelphia station.

On March 1, 1894, owing to the growth of business at North Philadelphia, Mr. Smick was relieved from his duties as freight agent and assigned exclusively to the position of passenger agent at North Philadelphia station, which position he has since occupied.

Don't Know of Mishap All that this father has been able to obtain from the military authorities is the information that "we have no knowledge of a mishap to your son."

Harold D. Speakman, a graduate of the West Philadelphia High School, answered the call of his country at the outbreak of war, and entered the medical unit of the old First Regiment, N. G. P. At Camp Hancock he was sent to the officers' training camp and recommended for a commission. This came to him early in July and he was assigned to E Company of the 112th Infantry.

"July 20," said the father, "I received a letter from Harold. He told me he had been in action, but said nothing about the engagement. Then I received a field postcard bearing the date of July 24. On that he said he was well, but since then I have received nothing from him."

"Early in September, Lieutenant Timm called and told me that my boy had been killed, and buried near the spot where he fell. But I want the information to come from the War Department."

CASUALTY LISTS AGAIN CONFUSED

Three Previously Reported Killed Now Located "in Overseas Hospitals"

REPORT STILL WRONG

Man Not Abroad, but at Camp Meade—Father Can't Learn Son's Fate

The War Department today announced that three Philadelphia soldiers "previously reported killed in action" have been located in overseas hospitals.

The men are: Henry D. Berry, 6100 Wheeler street, Frank J. Melvin, 3339 North Philip street, Antonio A. Angiolillo, West Manayunk.

It develops that Berry "never was killed in action." He was slightly wounded and, instead of being overseas, he is now at Camp Meade in a convalescent hospital.

Melvin never was reported killed by the War Department, but was listed as missing and his parents have not at any time believed he was dead. They know he was alive. The situation is the same in the case of Angiolillo.

Can't Learn Son's Fate

Although informed unofficially that his son, Lieutenant Harold D. Speakman, was killed July 25, when leading his company in a brilliant charge, W. E. Speakman, 511 Essex avenue, Narberth, Pa., has failed to receive a single word from the War Department that will verify or deny this report.

"For five months," said Mr. Speakman today, "I have clung to a faint hope that my boy was spared, but failure of the War Department to give me definite information blasted the last bit of hope. I have sent appeals to Washington and appeals across the seas, but can get no satisfaction."

"Lieutenant A. G. Timm, who returned from France in September, told me my boy had been killed, and buried near the spot where he fell. But I want the information to come from the War Department."

Former Hog Island Man Free

Big Taxicab Bill Shown Legitimate, Says Commissioner

W. S. Seaman, former production manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, who was arrested and charged with running up a \$720 taxicab bill for United States Commissioner Long.

In a letter to Assistant United States Attorney Street, the commissioner informed the Federal prosecutors that the testimony presented did not show a specific instance that the defendant had utilized the taxi service for personal pleasure or personal business.

The Government attorneys have testimony that would clear up the matter, but under the present conditions I feel that it is best to discharge the prisoner," Commissioner Long informed the district attorney's office.

A. O. H. MAKES PROTEST

Resolution Against Philadelphia Protestant Association Request Adopted

Protest against the Philadelphia Protestant Association's request that the mention of Irish freedom be intruded upon the Peace Conference has been made by the county board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

This action was taken yesterday in a meeting at the A. O. H. headquarters, 1606 North Broad street, and was adopted unanimously.

The resolution calls attention to the fact that the United States entered the war for world democracy and that "President Wilson is capable of deciding the question of the rights of small nations."

HOLIDAY THIEVES BUSY

Jewelry and Candy Stores and Saloon Entered

Holiday thieves were busy early today in the central part of the city. After breaking the window of the jewelry store of J. Schless, 1020 Market street, thieves stole watches and rings valued at \$150. The same robbers, it is believed, entered the candy store of Pine Brothers, 1620 Market street, where they took \$10 from a cash register.

They got \$40 from the saloon of Joseph Penney, 1528 Market street. Signs and other articles were stolen from the stand of H. Schreyer, southeast corner Nineteenth and Chestnut streets.

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Plenty of Time, and Plenty of Choice, at Perry's, if you want to get a New Suit or a New Overcoat for this Best of Christmases

It will take you just ten minutes to see yourself in the Suit or in the Overcoat you have in mind if you come in and tell us just what it is. We will lead you right to it.

Or, if you haven't yet formed a definite idea as to the exact style, or fabric, or pattern, or color, or shade you'd like in the Overcoat or Suit you should have for Christmas morning, let's take a walk together through our splendid stocks.

Look at the Overcoats first. There are several thousand stretching out under your eyes—surely we'll find suggestions aplenty for you among them.

Single-breasted conservatives in fly fronts or button-through fronts, with velvet collars or cloth collars.

Box back coats, loose back coats, Raglan shoulder coats, snug-waisted models.

Then, double-breasted Overcoats built on straight lines, or with glove-fitting body lines, velvet collars or cloth collars, set-in sleeves or Raglan shoulders.

Next, Ulsters, Ulsterettes, or Town Ulsters, Great Coats, Muff Pocket Ulsters, waist-seam Ulsters, belted backs, outside bellows pockets, and so on and so forth.

And, of course, fur collar Overcoats, fur-lined Overcoats, fur-outside Overcoats, reversible leather and cloth Overcoats—and a lot we've had to leave unmentioned.

Same thing of Suits—half an hour or so will bring you in touch with beauties you'll want to own and wear.

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Ritz-Carlton Broad and Walnut Streets. New Year's Eve. You will be very sure to find just the right spirit of jollity here on New Year's Eve fittingly celebrated in the Victory Room. Reservations, including an excellent supper, \$5 the cover. Souvenirs, of course—a bit out of the usual, too!

TO BE SOLD BY THE ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN. Messer Manufacturing Company PHILADELPHIA, PA. THE entire outstanding capital stock of Messer Manufacturing Company and other property. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, A. Mitchell Palmer, Alien Property Custodian, will offer for sale at public sale to the highest bidder, at the office of Messer Manufacturing Company, 121 North Seventh street, Philadelphia, Pa., at 11 o'clock A. M. on the 30th day of December, 1918, 185 shares (being all the stock issued) of the capital stock, par value \$100 each, of Messer Manufacturing Company, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, and certain registered letters patent. Full description of and information concerning above property, the terms and conditions of inspection and sale, may be obtained by application to JOSEPH F. GUFFEY, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF SALES 110 West 42d Street, New York City A. MITCHELL PALMER, Alien Property Custodian

BALLEY, BANKS & BIDDLE CO. Jewelers. Pearls Diamonds Platinum Jewelry Gold Jewelry Watches Clocks Silverware Leather Goods China Glass. Gifts of the Finest Quality Tho Not Necessarily Expensive.

Bacharach's Quality Shops Next to 1114 CHESTNUT STREET Next to Keith's 37 South 13th St. 920 Chestnut St. 6 South 82d St. Gifts That the Man Appreciates Most Silk Shirts A splendid and comprehensive assortment of the finest shirts obtainable in the most wanted colors and designs. \$5.00 to \$12.50 Neckwear of Unusual Quality Silk and knitted ties, the duplicates of which would be difficult to find. Great assortment and rightly priced. 65c to \$5 OTHER WORTHWHILE SUGGESTIONS Gloves—Handkerchiefs—Cans—Umbrellas—Hosiery Underwear—Belted and Unbelted—Shirts—Socks—Jackets—Mufflers—Belts—Phonograph Records for Men and Women OPEN EVENINGS

Christmas Gifts for Men. Only by a personal inspection of our immense assortment will you appreciate the many appropriate gifts of gold and silver we have to offer. We can relieve your gift problem burden. Gifts of Gold: Watches \$22.00 to \$400.00, Scarf pins 1.00 to 125.00, Tie clasps 1.75 to 29.00, Cigarette tubes 4.75 to 19.00, Cigar cutters 10.50 to 50.00, Pocket knives 3.75 to 90.00, Link buttons 2.80 to 460.00, Fountain pens 25.00 to 40.00. Gifts of Silver: Belts \$3.00 to \$8.75, Pencils .50 to 8.00, Humidors 10.50 to 50.00, Desk Sets 78.00 to 135.00, Match boxes 1.75 to 13.00, Cigarette cases 7.50 to 64.00, Eyeglass cases 6.00 to 44.00, Military brushes 6.00 to 24.00. Thousands of suitable gifts in Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry and Silverware are attractively illustrated in our new catalog—every article available in our stock for immediate delivery. Call or write for a copy. S. Kind & Sons, 1110 Chestnut St. DIAMOND MERCHANTS—JEWELERS—SILVERSMITHS